# MACS 2009 Annual Report

25 YEARS OF HELPING FARMERS PROTECT THE BAY

MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL WATER QUALITY COST-SHARE PROGRAM

# The MACS Mission

Since 1984, the Maryland Agricultural Water Quality Cost-Share (MACS) Program has been helping farmers protect natural resources on their farms, adopt sustainable agricultural practices and comply with a growing list of federal, state and local environmental requirements. MACS provides farmers with grants to cover up to 87.5 percent of the cost to install conservation measures known as best management practices (BMPs) on their farms to prevent soil erosion, manage nutrients and safeguard water quality in streams, rivers and the Chesapeake Bay. Cover crops planted after the harvest to take up leftover fertilizers, streamside buffers of grasses and trees planted to protect waterways from sedimentation and farm runoff, and animal waste management systems constructed to help farmers safely handle and store manure resources are among 30 BMPs currently eligible for MACS grants.

# Message from the Secretary of Agriculture

2009 marks our 25th year of extraordinary success in helping farmers do their part to protect water quality in the streams and rivers that feed our great Chesapeake Bay. More than just another government incentive program, the Maryland Agricultural Water Quality Cost-Share (MACS) Program is the cornerstone of Maryland's efforts to protect natural resources and Governor Martin O'Malley's plan to accelerate the Bay cleanup. MACS provides farmers with the financial resources they need to place conservation practices on their farms to control soil erosion, manage nutrients, protect wildlife habitat and ensure the health and safety of all Maryland waterways.

I am pleased to report that MACS has grown tremendously over the last quarter century and that farmer interest and action in protecting natural resources has reached unprecedented levels. Despite the recent economic downturn, 2009 was our most successful year on record.

To put matters into perspective, back in 1984 MACS provided Maryland farmers with $434,000 in grants to install roughly 130 conservation projects on their farms. This year, MACS provided Maryland farmers with a record $19 million in grants to install 2,370 conservation projects on their farms. Farmers who received MACS grants over the last 25 years invested more than $14 million of their own money into these conservation projects and must shoulder additional maintenance and upkeep expenses for a minimum of 10 years. Such action on the part of Maryland farmers dispels the notion that conservation takes a back seat—even in tough economic times.

A lot has changed in 25 years. In 1984, most of the conservation practices funded by MACS were used to control soil erosion and reduce the devastating effects of sedimentation in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. Today, farmers are installing state-of-the-art waste management systems and innovative heavy use areas for poultry and livestock operations aimed at curbing nutrient movement into surface and groundwater. Many of these systems—which can cost upwards of $100,000—are now required by regulation for certain animal operations.

In recent years, our Cover Crop Program has expanded in both popularity and scope thanks to new, dedicated funding being provided by the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund and the Chesapeake Bay 2010 Trust Fund. A rising star in agriculture's efforts to minimize soil losses over the winter and reduce nutrient runoff from crop fields, cover crops planted on Maryland farms saved 1.17 million pounds of nitrogen and 47,800 pounds of phosphorus from entering Maryland waterways this year. They are prominently featured in Governor O'Malley's suite of ambitious two-year milestones aimed at accelerating the Bay cleanup. Cover crops alone are expected to achieve one-third of the Governor's nutrient reduction goals.

But the cumulative efforts of the MACS program speak for themselves: more than 20,000 conservation projects installed over the last quarter century on Maryland farmland. As Maryland ramps up its efforts to achieve even greater nutrient savings for the Bay, MACS will continue to help Maryland farmers lead the way toward a smart, green and growing future.

Earl F. Hance
*Maryland*
*Secretary of Agriculture*

# MACS and Maryland's Two-Year Bay Milestones

At the 2009 Chesapeake Bay Executive Council meeting, Governor Martin O'Malley announced a series of 27 ambitious two-year actions or milestones aimed at speeding up Maryland's efforts to reduce nutrients entering the Chesapeake Bay and to bolster accountability to the public.

Collectively, the two-year milestones are intended to prevent an additional 3.75 million pounds of nitrogen and 201,000 pounds of phosphorus from reaching the Bay over 2008 levels. Implementing these actions successfully will put Maryland on pace to meet its long-term Bay restoration goals by the newly established deadline of 2020.

Seventeen of the 27 milestones are related to agriculture and focus on increasing the use of certain highly valued best management practices by farmers. These include:

- Doubling the acreage planted in cover crops
- Expanding the amount of manure transported out of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed from poultry farms with high soil phosphorus levels
- Constructing poultry and livestock waste management systems, heavy use areas and streamside protection measures to keep livestock from impacting local streams
- Planting streamside buffers, creating wetlands and protecting highly erodible land.

Most of the milestones for agriculture will be measured and achieved with the help of our conservation partners at Maryland's soil conservation districts and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. For a full description and progress report on agriculture's role in the Bay cleanup visit: www.baystat.maryland.gov/2yearplan.html.

## Where We Stand

### COVER CROPS

Percent of Milestone Completed: 52%

Goal: Expand the amount of cover crops that are planted annually from 179,400 acres to 460,000 acres.

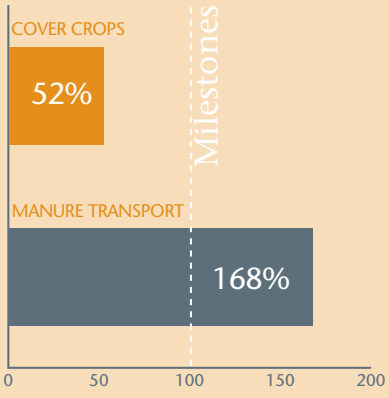
Status: 239,000 acres planted in 2008/2009 growing season

### MANURE TRANSPORT

Percent of Milestone Completed: 168%

Goal: Increase the amount of poultry litter transported out of the Bay Watershed annually from 35,000 tons to 45,000 tons

Status: 52,000 tons of poultry litter transported out of the Bay Watershed in 2009




Milestones

# 2009 Program Summary

In Fiscal Year 2009, MACS awarded Maryland farmers $19 million in grants to install 2,370 capital and special projects on their farms to control soil erosion, manage nutrients and protect water quality in streams, rivers and the Chesapeake Bay. This figure represents a 35 percent increase over 2008 due mainly to increased participation in the cover crop program and new cost-share eligibility for poultry house pads. In 2009, Maryland farmers used MACS grants to construct approximately 125 of these concrete pad projects at entrances to poultry houses and waste storage structures to safeguard water quality during poultry house and waste storage cleanouts.

Farmers who received cost-share grants from MACS in 2009 invested more than $923,000 of their own money into start up costs for these projects. Collectively, the projects will prevent an estimated 1.3 million pounds of nitrogen and 86,900 pounds of phosphorus from entering Maryland waterways each year. Cover crops were responsible for the bulk of the nitrogen savings (1.2 million pounds) and more than 50 percent of the phosphorus savings (47,768 pounds). The projects will protect

SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT SUMMARY FOR CAPITAL PROJECTS *Fiscal Year 2009*

| District | Completed Projects | Payment Amount |
|---|---|---|
| Allegany | 7 | $ 34,986 |
| Baltimore County | 11 | $ 70,674 |
| Calvert | 8 | $ 72,719 |
| Caroline | 30 | $ 594,373 |
| Carroll | 103 | $ 638,055 |
| Catoctin | 21 | $ 139,588 |
| Cecil | 10 | $ 87,479 |
| Charles | 4 | $ 17,721 |
| Dorchester | 30 | $ 515,451 |
| Frederick | 49 | $ 440,758 |
| Garrett | 9 | $ 78,579 |
| Harford | 38 | $ 213,559 |
| Howard | 10 | $ 71,851 |
| Kent | 52 | $ 200,545 |
| Montgomery | 15 | $ 151,738 |
| Prince George's | 4 | $ 9,357 |
| Queen Anne's | 32 | $ 723,163 |
| Saint Mary's | 15 | $ 130,532 |
| Somerset | 37 | $1,262,170 |
| Talbot | 6 | $ 107,396 |
| Washington County | 12 | $ 117,525 |
| Wicomico | 26 | $ 667,224 |
| Worcester | 41 | $1,312,457 |
| **Total** | **570** | **$7,657,900** |

## FISCAL YEAR 2009 PROGRAM SUMMARY

| Capital Projects Approved | Number of Projects | Funds |
|---|---|---|
| From State Funds | 750 | $12,276,035 |
| From Federal Funds | 9 | $ 17,700 |
| **Total Capital Projects Approved** | **759** | **$12,293,735** |
| Capital Projects Completed | Number of Projects | Funds |
| CREP Projects with State Funds | 72 | $ 104,624 |
| All Other Projects with State Funds | 487 | $ 7,396,803 |
| With Federal Funds | 11 | $ 156,473 |
| **Total Capital Projects Completed** | **570** | **$ 7,657,900** |
| Special Projects Completed | Number of Projects | Funs |
| Cover Crops | 1,571 | $10,714,738 |
| Manure Transport | 154 | $ 663,177[1] |
| Nutrient Management Plan Cost-Share | 75 | $ 85,717 |
| **Total Special Projects Completed** | **1,800** | **$11,463,632** |
| **TOTAL CAPITAL AND SPECIAL PROJECTS COMPLETED** | **2,370** | **$19,121,532** |

| | Nitrogen | Phosphorus |
|---|---|---|
| Estimated Pounds of Nutrients Removed by Capital Projects | 100,420 | 39,168 |
| Estimated Pounds of Nutrients Removed by Cover Crops | 1,166,728 | 47,768 |

| | Tons | Acres of Land |
|---|---|---|
| Tons of Soil Saved Per Year[2] | 12,459 | 998 |

| Manure Managed Daily with Animal Waste Storage Structures | Tons of Manure | Animal Units[3] |
|---|---|---|
| Poultry Manure Managed Daily | 1,336 | 60,282 |
| Dairy Manure Managed Daily | 79 | 1,944 |
| Beef Manure Managed Daily | 173 | 5,019 |
| Other Animal Manure Managed Daily | 59 | 1,886 |
| **Total Animal Manure Managed Daily** | **1,647** | **69,131** |

[1] Does not include poultry company matching funds
[2] Based on the Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation (RUSLE)
[3] One animal unit = 1,000 lbs. of live animal weight

Note: Nutrient reduction figures are based on the best science available and are consistent with the Chesapeake Bay Model.

streams from sediment pollution and animal waste by managing an estimated 12,459 tons of soil annually and 1,647 tons of manure daily. Cover crops, manure transport, heavy use area protection, grassed waterways, nutrient management consultant services, waste storage structures, livestock fencing, watering facilities, filter strips and grade stabilization structures round out the top 10 practices installed by farmers in 2009 with MACS assistance.

Because MACS grants do not cover the entire cost of installing BMPs, Low Interest Loans for Agricultural Conservation (LILAC) are available to help farmers pay for start up costs and additional expenses on large ticket items. Guaranteed by the State Revolving Loan Fund, LILAC loans are typically offered at rates that are three to four percent below market rates and are available at lending institutions statewide. In Fiscal Year 2009, MACS worked with the Maryland Department of the Environment and soil conservation districts to provide farmers with approximately $1 million in LILAC loans. The funds were used to help pay for conservation tillage and manure handling equipment as well as waste storage structures, heavy use areas, and agricultural chemical and handling facilities.

## CAPITAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEARS 1984-2009

| | Number of Projects | Funds |
|---|---|---|
| Projects Approved from State Funds | 21,139 | $ 122,233,814 |
| Projects Approved from Federal Funds | 1,891 | $ 8,627,379 |
| **Total Projects Approved** | **23,030** | **$ 130,861,193** |
| | | |
| Projects Completed with State Funds | 18,342 | $ 89,511,566 |
| Projects Completed with Federal Funds | 1,981 | $ 9,174,560 |
| **Total Projects Completed** | **20,323** | **$ 98,686,126** |
| | | |
| **Estimated Farmer Out-of-Pocket Costs** | | **$ 14,000,000** |

# Completed Macs Cost-Shared Practices By District For Fiscal Year 2009

| Practice | Allegany | Anne Arundel | Baltimore County | Calvert | Caroline | Carroll | Catoctin | Cecil | Charles | Dorchester | Frederick | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Conservation Cover | | | | | | 5 | | 1 | | | | |
| Contour Farming | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Contour Orchard | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Critical Area Planting | | | 1 | | 1 | 1 | | | | | 1 | |
| Dead Bird Composting Facility | | | | | 2 | | | | | 3 | | |
| Diversion | | | | | | | | 2 | | | | |
| Fencing | 3 | | | 4 | | 7 | 3 | | 1 | | 5 | |
| Field Border | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Field Windbreak | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Filter Strip | | | | | 2 | 5 | | | | 13 | 2 | |
| Grade Stabilization Structure | | | | | 7 | | 1 | 2 | | | 2 | |
| Grassed Waterway | 1 | | 4 | | | 33 | 6 | 2 | | | 17 | |
| Heavy Use Area Protection | | | | 1 | 12 | 7 | | 2 | 2 | 14 | 4 | |
| Lined Waterway or Outlet | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| No Till | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Pasture & Hay Planting | | | | | | | | | | | 2 | |
| Riparian Forest Buffer | | | | | 1 | 2 | 2 | | | | 3 | |
| Roof Runoff Structure | 2 | | | | | 8 | 3 | 1 | | | 6 | |
| Sediment Basin | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sediment Control Pond | | | 1 | 1 | | | 2 | 1 | | | 1 | |
| Spring Development | 1 | | 2 | | | 7 | 3 | | | | 1 | |
| Stream Crossing | | | | 1 | | 4 | 1 | | | | 1 | |
| Strip Cropping, Contour | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Strip Cropping, Field | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Terrace System | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Waste Storage Pond | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Waste Storage Structure | 1 | | 2 | | 4 | 10 | | 1 | 1 | 3 | 3 | |
| Waste Treatment Lagoon | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Wastewater Treatment Strip | | | | | | 5 | | | 1 | | | |
| Water Control Structure | | | | | 6 | | | | | | | |
| Water Well | | | | 1 | | | | | | | 1 | |
| Watering Facility | 3 | | 3 | 2 | | 7 | 4 | 1 | 1 | | 4 | |
| **Total** | **11** | **0** | **13** | **10** | **35** | **101** | **25** | **13** | **6** | **33** | **53** | |

| Garrett | Harford | Howard | Kent | Montgomery | Prince George's | Queen Anne's | St. Mary's | Somerset | Talbot | Washington County | Wicomico | Worcester | Total FY 2009 | Cumulative FY88-09 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | 3 | | 1 | | | | 1 | | | | 11 | 599 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0 | 47 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0 | 2 |
| 1 | 2 | 1 | | | | | 1 | | | 3 | | | 12 | 794 |
| | | | | | | 1 | | 6 | | | 3 | 7 | 22 | 884 |
| | 1 | 2 | | | | 1 | 2 | | | | | | 8 | 473 |
| 5 | 6 | | 2 | 2 | | 1 | 2 | | | 2 | | | 43 | 1,004 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0 | 10 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0 | 2 |
| | | | 6 | | 2 | 3 | | | 1 | | | 4 | 38 | 1,621 |
| | 1 | 2 | 13 | | | 5 | | | | | | | 33 | 1,684 |
| | 6 | 2 | 32 | 7 | 1 | 6 | 4 | | 1 | 2 | | | 124 | 4,219 |
| 2 | 3 | 1 | 1 | | | 17 | 3 | 30 | 4 | 1 | 19 | 27 | 150 | 441 |
| 1 | 2 | | | 3 | | 1 | | | 1 | | | | 8 | 357 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0 | 12 |
| | | 1 | | | | 2 | | | | | | | 5 | 6 |
| 2 | 2 | | | 1 | | | | | | 4 | | | 17 | 1,351 |
| 1 | 4 | 1 | 2 | | | | 1 | | | 1 | | | 30 | 567 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0 | 48 |
| | | | 3 | | | 1 | 2 | | | | | | 12 | 1,042 |
| | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | 16 | 1,118 |
| | 2 | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | 10 | 424 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0 | 61 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0 | 69 |
| | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 85 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0 | 36 |
| 1 | 2 | 1 | | 1 | | 2 | | 6 | | 1 | 7 | 9 | 55 | 1,998 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0 | 15 |
| | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | 7 | 30 |
| | | | | | | | | 2 | | | | | 8 | 8 |
| | 4 | | | 1 | | | 2 | | | | | | 9 | 159 |
| 1 | 8 | 2 | | 2 | | | 2 | | | 1 | | | 41 | 1,833 |
| **14** | **46** | **14** | **62** | **18** | **4** | **40** | **19** | **44** | **8** | **15** | **29** | **47** | **660** | **20,999** |

# Projects Financed With Special Funds

## 2008-2009 Cover Crop Program

The Cover Crop Program is the centerpiece in a suite of 27 smart, green and growing actions that Governor Martin O'Malley has established to ramp up the Bay restoration and prevent an additional 3.75 million pounds of nitrogen and 201,000 pounds of phosphorus from reaching waterways by the end of 2011. Increasing the amount of farmland planted annually in cover crops to 460,000 acres will achieve nearly one-third of agriculture's overall nutrient reduction goal.

Initial results are good. Participation in the 2008-2009 Cover Crop Program was up 25 percent from last year, with Maryland farmers planting 238,840 acres of cover crops statewide. MACS provided these farmers with $10.7 million in grants to help offset associated seed, labor and equipment costs.

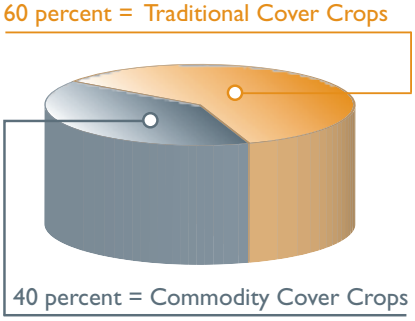
Cover crops are planted in the fall after the autumn harvest to help farmers control soil erosion and reduce the amount of nutrients that end up in the bay over the winter. Cereal grains such as rye, wheat and barley are used as cover crops because they continue to grow in cool weather. Once established, cover crops recycle unused plant nutrients remaining in the soil from the previous summer crop, protect fields

2008-2009 WINTER COVER CROP PROGRAM

| District | Contracts | Acres | Total Payment Amount |
|---|---|---|---|
| Allegany | 7 | 211 | $ 9,590 |
| Anne Arundel | 13 | 758 | $ 35,766 |
| Baltimore County | 41 | 4,100 | $ 175,961 |
| Calvert | 23 | 1,603 | $ 64,553 |
| Caroline | 132 | 19,806 | $ 695,791 |
| Carroll | 111 | 13,987 | $ 643,449 |
| Catoctin | 13 | 808 | $ 40,191 |
| Cecil | 80 | 13,622 | $ 604,833 |
| Charles | 32 | 3,932 | $ 153,324 |
| Dorchester | 107 | 18,108 | $ 768,249 |
| Frederick | 197 | 18,207 | $ 782,642 |
| Garrett | 7 | 388 | $ 20,263 |
| Harford | 64 | 6,190 | $ 308,705 |
| Howard | 18 | 1,334 | $ 53,176 |
| Kent | 144 | 26,546 | $ 1,375,469 |
| Montgomery | 36 | 6,404 | $ 273,106 |
| Prince George's | 25 | 1,730 | $ 71,666 |
| Queen Anne's | 124 | 19,396 | $ 832,898 |
| St. Mary's | 51 | 8,215 | $ 335,942 |
| Somerset | 59 | 6,280 | $ 249,232 |
| Talbot | 108 | 30,979 | $ 1,457,180 |
| Washington County | 50 | 5,786 | $ 257,648 |
| Wicomico | 68 | 13,546 | $ 703,307 |
| Worcester | 61 | 16,904 | $ 801,839 |
| **Total** | **1,571** | **238,840** | **$10,714,780** |

# Manure Transport

ACRES PLANTED IN COVER CROPS




against wind and water erosion, and help improve the soil for the next year's crop.

MACS offers a Traditional Cover Crop Program, which does not allow for harvest and a Commodity Cover Crop Program for farmers who want to harvest their cover crops. The use of manure and fertilizer is restricted in both programs. Farmers located in high priority watersheds who followed certain environmental guidelines were eligible to receive up to $90 an acre in cost-share grants through the Traditional Cover Crop Program. Farmers who harvested their cover crops received $30 an acre in cost-share grants. Approximately 40 percent of the cover crops planted during the 2008-2009 season were harvested.

Funding for the MACS Winter Cover Crop Program is provided largely by the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund and the Chesapeake Bay 2010 Trust Fund.

Increasing the amount of excess manure that is transported annually out of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed is one of 27 two-year milestones targeted for completion by 2011 in order to speed up the Bay cleanup. In 2009, Maryland's Manure Transport Program helped poultry and livestock producers ship a record 119,892 tons of excess manure off their farms. Of this figure, 52,000 tons of poultry litter were transported outside of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. This figure exceeds the milestone goal by 68 percent.

Under the Manure Transport Program, poultry, dairy, beef and other animal producers with high soil phosphorus levels or not enough land to handle all their manure may apply for cost-share grants of up to $20 per ton to transport excess manure to other locations that can use the product in an environmentally safe manner. Cost-share rates are 25 percent higher for farms located in Dorchester, Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester counties, due to legislative intent to maximize transport from these counties.

In Fiscal Year 2009, 132 farmers received $663,177 in state grant payments to transport manure to approved farms and businesses. Delmarva poultry companies provided matching funds to transport poultry litter, bringing the total amount of financial support provided to farmers through the transport program to $1,167,201. Other animal producers received up to 87.5 percent cost-share or a maximum of $7,500 per farm.

MANURE TRANSPORT PROGRAM SUMMARY | Payments for Transport

| Fiscal Year | Actual Tons Transported | State Cost-Share | Poultry Companies Cost-Share* |
|---|---|---|---|
| FY1999 | 1,896 | $ 17,992 | $ 17,992 |
| FY2000 | 13,366 | $ 111,464 | $ 111,464 |
| FY2001 | 20,477 | $ 195,559 | $ 195,559 |
| FY2002 | 47,481 | $ 434,610 | $ 420,395 |
| FY2003 | 28,556 | $ 233,444 | $ 229,645 |
| FY2004 | 40,755 | $ 295,356 | $ 285,806 |
| FY2005 | 36,329 | $ 239,196 | $ 200,113 |
| FY2006 | 69,009 | $ 380,694 | $ 293,728 |
| FY2007 | 99,297 | $ 490,011 | $ 356,955 |
| FY2008 | 99,817 | $ 520,357 | $ 370,985 |
| FY2009 | 119,892 | $ 663,177 | $ 504,024 |
| **Total** | **576,875** | **$3,581,860** | **$2,986,666** |

*Match provided for poultry litter only.

# Nutrient Management Services

Maryland farmers are required by law to follow nutrient management plans that spell out how they will protect water quality when applying fertilizer, manure or other nutrient sources to their crop fields. Nutrient management plans are tailored to each farm and must be prepared by a University of Maryland Extension specialist, private consultant for hire, or farmer who is trained and certified by MDA to prepare his or her own plan.

MACS provides grants to farmers who hire private, non-government consultants to develop or update nutrient management plans for their farms. The reimbursement rate is 87.5 percent of the cost of the plan, up to $3,000 per operation. Grants cover one nutrient management plan/update per operator, per year. Certain out-of-pocket expenses incurred by farmers certified to develop their own plans and operators whose plans are developed by Extension consultants are also covered.

During Fiscal Year 2009, MACS issued $85,718 in cost-share grants to 75 farmers who hired private consultants to develop nutrient management plans covering 40,887 acres of farmland. Due to budget cutbacks, the program ran out of funds during the first three months of the fiscal year and stopped accepting applications.

FISCAL YEAR 2009 DISTRICT SUMMARY FOR NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT COST-SHARE

| District | Completed Plans | Acres | Payment Amount |
|---|---|---|---|
| Anne Arundel | 2 | 794 | $ 2,466 |
| Baltimore County | 2 | 278 | $ 898 |
| Caroline | 10 | 10,048 | $11,930 |
| Carroll | 1 | 336 | $ 219 |
| Cecil | 18 | 4,688 | $15,509 |
| Dorchester | 4 | 2,952 | $ 4,750 |
| Frederick | 17 | 7,234 | $20,094 |
| Harford | 1 | 274 | $ 316 |
| Howard | 2 | 1,372 | $ 2,165 |
| Kent | 5 | 2,686 | $ 6,726 |
| Montgomery | 1 | 1,745 | $ 2,625 |
| Queen Anne's | 7 | 3,740 | $10,052 |
| Talbot | 3 | 1,556 | $ 2,968 |
| Wicomico | 2 | 3,184 | $ 5,000 |
| **Total** | **75** | **40,887** | **$85,718** |

# Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is a state-federal conservation partnership that pays landowners attractive land rental rates to voluntarily take environmentally sensitive crop and pastureland out of production for 10 to 15 years and plant streamside buffers, protect highly erodible land or establish wetlands to protect the water quality and wildlife habitat of local streams. Increased participation in CREP is a key feature of Maryland's 2011 milestone goals.

MACS provides cost-share grants to CREP participants to help cover the costs of establishing BMPs to protect water quality and create wildlife habitat on enrolled lands that they have agreed to no longer till or graze. In Fiscal Year 2009, MACS provided 72 landowners statewide with $105,000 in cost-share funds to install streamside buffers, conservation cover, wetlands, livestock crossings and animal fencing on land enrolled in CREP.

In April of this year, Governor O'Malley and USDA Secretary Tom Vilsak signed an agreement to reauthorize CREP and stimulate participation by offering increased incentives to landowners who protect valuable streamside property or stabilize highly erodible land. Sign-up for CREP is ongoing until 100,000 acres are enrolled. Established in 1997, the program now has active contracts representing 70 percent of its target with more than 70,000 acres enrolled through the end of Fiscal Year 2009. This figure fluctuates slightly during the course of the year due to contracts that expire as new ones are added. When fully implemented, CREP is expected to prevent 11.5 million pounds of nitrogen and 1.1 million pounds of phosphorus from entering Maryland waterways each year. Sediment loadings to the Bay will also be reduced by an estimated 200,000 tons annually.

# Maryland's Soil Conservation Districts—Bringing MACS to Farmers

Maryland's 24 soil conservation districts promote and deliver MACS funding to local farmers. Located in every Maryland county, soil conservation districts—with technical guidance from USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service—help farmers select the right BMPs for their operations, supervise their installation or construction and develop maintenance plans to keep them in good working order. Agricultural planners working in soil conservation districts also help farmers calculate costs to install BMPs and apply for state and federal cost-share and low interest loans.

| SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICTS | |
|---|---|
| Allegany | 301-777-1747, ext. 3 |
| Anne Arundel | 410-571-6757 |
| Baltimore County | 410-666-1188, ext. 3 |
| Calvert | 410-535-1521, ext. 3 |
| Caroline | 410-479-1202, ext. 3 |
| Carroll | 410-848-8200, ext. 3 |
| Catoctin | 301-695-2803, ext. 3 |
| Cecil | 410-398-4411, ext 3 |
| Charles | 301-934-9588, ext. 3 |
| Dorchester | 410-228-5640, ext. 3 |
| Frederick | 301-695-2803, ext. 3 |
| Garrett | 301-334-6951 |
| Harford | 410-838-6181, ext. 3 |
| Howard | 410-489-7987 |
| Kent | 410-778-5150, ext. 3 |
| Montgomery | 301-590-2855 |
| Prince George's | 301-574-5162, ext. 3 |
| Queen Anne's | 410-758-3136, ext. 3 |
| St. Mary's | 301-475-8402, ext. 3 |
| Somerset | 410-651-1575, ext. 3 |
| Talbot | 410-822-1577, ext. 3 |
| Washington County | 301-797-6821, ext. 3 |
| Wicomico | 410-546-4777, ext. 3 |
| Worcester | 410-632-5439, ext. 3 |

Maryland
Department of Agriculture
*Office of Resource Conservation*

Conservation Grants Program
50 Harry S. Truman Parkway
Annapolis, MD 21401

410-841-5864

www.mda.state.md.us

MARYLAND *Smart, Green & Growing*

Martin O'Malley, Governor | Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor | Earl F. Hance, Secretary

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